9 ANALYSIS OF BLOODSTAIN PATTERNS FROM SUBMITTED PHOTOGRAPHS

9.1 Orientation & Documentation

9.1.1 Begin the notes by describing the packaging material as well as any necessary information on the outer portion of the packaging.

9.1.2 Open the seal and inventory the contents and document in the notes.

9.1.3 Document Photographs

9.1.3.1 Label in accordance with QM Section 20.5.6. If the law enforcement agency has already assigned a number, keep their original numbering system. If not, view the photographs and organize in the best sequence for your analysis.

9.1.4 If negatives are available, request a second set of photographs for the file. If negatives are not available, scan the evidence photographs so the file has either a hard copy or a digital copy of each photograph.

9.1.5 Utilizing a light source and a magnifying device, view each photograph. Each photograph is described in the notes independently as to observations.

9.2 Assessment

9.2.1 Obtain the M.E. report, other medical reports, x-rays, other Forensic reports, investigative reports and victim suspect statements (as needed and available). Having these materials on hand is a beneficial addition to any analysis, but they should not be reviewed until the evidentiary photographs and opinions have been reached. This allows for an unbiased opinion based on the physics and fluid dynamics.

9.3 Evaluation

9.3.1 Based on the placement & category of the stains, provide information concerning reconstruction of actions causing the stains and sequence of events. This can only be accomplished if there is a sufficient staining at the scene. If significant possible blood staining is noted, describe the size, shape and distribution (references sections 2, 3 and 4). Possible conclusions as to categories or potential causes are noted (reference section 6).

9.3.2 General observations are written within the file notes listing each of the photograph numbers that display a basis for an observation. A second series of photograph numbers that display the “best examples” for viewing on each observation is also listed.

9.4 Equipment Needed

- Black Marker
- Pens/Pencils (assorted colors)
- Sketch Forms
- Flashlight
- Loupe/Magnifier
- Magnifying Glass
- Notebook/Paper
- Plastic Acetate Sheets

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